## STATE OF ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF: RAY W. HAGER, and BETTER INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS

FILE NO. 0500056

### **ORDER OF PROHIBITION**

TO RESPONDENTS:

Ray W. Hager (CRD # 2802640) 16682 Spring Valley Rd Morrison, Illinois 61270

**Better Investment Solutions** 

723 W. Rt. 30

Rock Falls, Illinois 61071

WHEREAS, a Temporary Order of Prohibition was issued by the Secretary of State on May 18, 2005 which prohibited Ray W. Hager and Better Investment Solutions (the "Respondents") from offering or selling securities in or from the State of Illinois until further order from the Secretary of State or his duly authorized representative;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 11.F of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5] (the "Act"), the failure to request a hearing within thirty (30) calendar days of the entry of the Temporary Order shall constitute an admission of any facts alleged therein and constitute a sufficient basis to make the Temporary Order final.

WHEREAS, the Respondents have failed to request a hearing on the matters contained in the Temporary Order within thirty (30) calendar days of the entry of said Temporary Order and the Respondents are hereby deemed to have admitted the facts alleged in the said Temporary Order.

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State, by and through his duly authorized representative, has adopted the Findings of Fact contained in the said Temporary Order as the Secretary of State's Findings of Fact as follows:

## <u>Count I</u> Sale of Unregistered Security

- 1. Respondent, Ray W. Hager, (hereinafter "Hager," or collectively with Respondent Better Investment Solutions "Respondents") in a natural person. Respondent Hager currently resides at 16682 Spring Valley Rd, Morrison, Illinois 61270. Respondent Hager conducts business under the name of Better Investment Solutions.
- 2. Respondent, Better Investment Solutions hereinafter "Better Investment Solutions," or collectively with Respondent Ray W. Hager "Respondents") is located at 723 W. Rt. 30, Rock Falls, and Illinois 61071.
- 3. Respondents obtained a list of potential investors from a third party service provider.
- 4. Respondents mailed information regarding an offering of unregistered promissory notes to numerous Illinois residents.
- 5. More than one Illinois Investor purchased the notes described in paragraph 4.
- 6. More than one of the sales of the notes referenced in paragraph 10 occurred in March of 2005.
- 7. The promissory note referenced in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 is a security as defined in Section 2.1 of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5.1 et seq.] (the "Act").
- 8. The activities described in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 constitutes the offer and sale of a security as those terms are defined in Sections 2.1, 2.5, and 2.5a of the Act.
- 9. Section 5 of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that all securities except those exempt under Section 3 or those offered or sold in transactions exempt under Section 4 shall be registered either by coordination or by qualification prior to their offer or sale in the State of Illinois.
- 10. Respondents failed to file with the Secretary of State an application for registration of the securities described above as required by the Act, and as a result, the security was not registered pursuant to Section 5 of the Act prior to its offer in the State of Illinois.
- 11. Section 12.A of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that it shall be a violation for any person to offer or sell any security except in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

- 12. Section 12.D of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that it shall be a violation for any person to fail to file with the Secretary of State any application, report or document required to be filed under the provisions of the Act or any rule or regulation made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Act.
- 13. That by virtue of the foregoing, Respondents has violated Sections 12.A and 12.D of the Act.

#### Count II

# Failing to Register as an Investment Advisor and/or Investment Advisor Representative

- 14. Respondents mailed a letter describing the "services" of Better Investment Solutions. The letter claimed the "Bettor Investment Solutions, LLC" was created in 2002 to provide independent Financial Advisors a commission-free platform to serve their clients" and was "uniquely structured to provide access to nearly every investment and insurance vehicle".
- 15. The letter described in paragraph 14 was printed on letterhead captioned "Better Investment Solutions Ray Hager Financial Advisor".
- 16. As of May 12, 2005, signage at 723 W. Rt. 30, Rock Falls, and Illinois 61071 displayed the name "Better Investment Solutions Ray Hager Financial Advisor".
- 17. By the activities described by paragraphs 14, 15 and 16, Respondents are holding themselves out as Investment Advisors or Invesment Advisor Representatives.
- 18. Section 8 of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that except as otherwise provided in this subsection A, every investment advisor and investment advisor representative shall be registered with the Secretary of State.
- 19. Respondent Hager is not currently registered in the State of Illinois as an Investment Advisor or Investment Advisor Representative.
- 20. Respondent Better Investment Solutions is not currently registered in the State of Illinois as an Investment Advisor or Investment Advisor Representative.
- 21. Section 12.C of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that it shall be a violation for any person to act as a dealer, salesperson, investment advisor, or investment advisor representative, unless registered as such, where such registration is required under the provisions of the Act.
- 22. That by virtue of the foregoing, Respondents has violated Sections 12.C of the Act.

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- 23. The aforementioned findings are based upon credible evidence.
- 24. Section 11.F (2) of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that the Secretary of State may temporarily prohibit the offer or sale of securities by any person, without notice and prior hearing, if the Secretary of State shall deem it necessary to prevent an imminent violation of the Act or to prevent losses to investors that will occur as a result of prior violations of the Act.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That pursuant to Section 11.F of the Act, Respondent, Ray W. Hager and Respondent Better Investment Solutions are hereby permanently <u>PROHIBITED</u> from offering or selling securities in or from the State of Illinois.

ENTERD: This  $\mathcal{Q}^{\mathcal{P}}$  day of August 2005.

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
State of Illinois

NOTICE: Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be a violation of Section 12.D of the Act. Any person or entity that fails to comply with the terms of this Order of the Secretary of State, having knowledge of the existence of this Order, shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony.

This is a final order subject to administrative review pursuant to the Administrative Review Law, 735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq. and the Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Securities Act (14 Ill. Admin. Code, Ch. I, Sec. 130.1123). Any action for judicial review must be commenced within thirty-five (35) days from the date a copy of this Order is served upon the party seeking review.